

**AUSROCKS**  
CONSULTING MINING ENGINEERS

# Newsletter Summer 2021

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## Welcome!

by Carl Morandy, Managing Director

2020 was a year like no other, and I'm sure that there are plenty of businesses hoping for a more reliable 2021. During the Christmas Holidays it was nice to reflect on all the good times during the year, if good times were not had due to isolation and lockdowns it might be best to focus on what lies ahead. In the years to come I'm sure the experiences 2020 has given us will only make us stronger and more resilient.

Since our last Newsletter in July 2020 plenty has been happening at Ausrocks. We have said farewell and good luck to Dale Brown as he heads down south to work at Mount Thorley Warkworth for Yancoal. Dale has been with Ausrocks for many years and has developed a fantastic skillset that I'm sure will serve him well in the future.

In November we welcomed Chris Ainslie to the Ausrocks team as our Geotechnical Engineer. Chris has been quick to pick up and run with a variety of projects and has a wealth of experience to suit the role. We look forward to the additional capability that Chris brings to the role with a myriad of projects on the cards for 2021 – including the project in the cover photo above, worlds worst commute to work...

In late 2020 we secured a long-term office location at 3/50 Northlink Place Virginia. With some minor internal improvements this commercial property provides ample room for our current and future expansion needs. The Geebung office closed on 18/12/2020 and the Virginia office opened on 04/01/2021. We look forward to welcoming clients to our new and improved office! Please update our contact details including phone number as necessary.

Although the QLD Election is done and dusted, with labor in power for another 4 years, it has not stirred up the market as much as we would have thought. However, the economic outlook is looking very favorable for quarries with significant budget put aside for billion-dollar infrastructure development. We expect the flow of new 'shovel ready' projects to start in the next few months with demand from quarries to increase in line with the ramp-up.

In the second half of 2020 we have cemented our capabilities within the silica sand resource industry, we also completed additional training in Micromine 2021 and JORC Code Reporting to improve our core skillset.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter, until next time – Adiós.

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# What's been Happening

by Carl Morandy

With the office move occurring over a few hot days before Christmas we have now settled into our new abode and are busy gearing up for a big 2021. We took the obligatory photo with the new signage below.



We welcome any existing and new clients to drop by the office for a cup of tea and explore how we can be of service.

With high expectations of bulk infrastructure development ahead, now is the time to assess what you need to do to get your project ready for the wave. We advise those in a position to benefit from supply of materials and services to these infrastructure projects to review their systems and get ahead of the game. The last time there was a significant wave of demand we noticed that timeframes for approvals were pushed out and availability of contractors to perform critical work dried up.

Ausrocks are continuing to support the Institute of Quarrying Australia Young Members Network through sponsorship in 2021. Darko Cvitanovic from Hanson's does a fantastic job of organising the YMN events and several have already been put on the calendar for the year.

We look forward to attending more face-to-face events this year and hope that Covid lockdowns won't cause too many disruptions.

# Changes in QLD

by Nick Virisheff

Recently the QLD Government has made several changes to government departments:

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) is now the Department of Resources (DOR), whilst parts of DNRME (water) are now the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW). The Mines Inspectorate (formerly a part of DNRME) has also moved to a new department named Resources Safety & Health QLD (RSHQ).

RSHQ will be focusing on independent operator audits in the first half of 2021. Whilst a site SSE is obligated by the Mining & Quarrying Safety and Health Act in QLD to create a Safety and Health Management System for their site, confusion has often arisen around whether or not an audit of the site's SHMS can be carried out by the SSE themselves or their delegates. The position of the regulator is clarified in QLD Guidance Note g (QGNog) which requires that a formal audit is undertaken by a suitably competent person who is independent of the SSE and mine operator. Ausrocks have completed numerous Operator Effectiveness Audits at sites of various size and nature over the last few years. We understand the requirements of the guideline and have worked closely with the inspectorate when an audit has been an MRE directive. These audits need to be completed regularly, so give us a call to discuss how we can help you to fulfill your statutory obligations.

With the Department of Environment and Sciences' Estimated Rehabilitation Cost (ERC) Calculator being continually reviewed, it can sometimes be difficult to keep track. However, we would like to offer to provide an obligation-free assessment to any small to medium sized operations existing ERC. As an outcome of the review, we would provide advice on how to optimise rehabilitation activities and minimise un-necessary liability. Please get in touch with the Ausrocks team to take us up on this offer.

# New Staff: Chris Ainslie

**Role:** Geotechnical Engineer, Ausrocks Pty Ltd

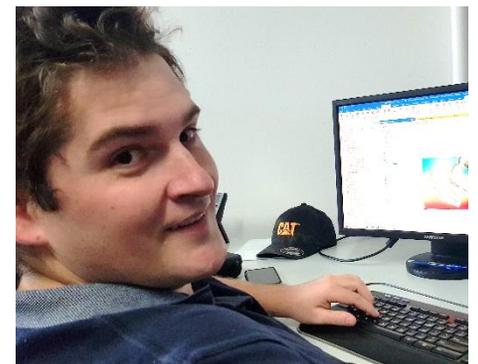
**Qualifications:** Bachelor of Science (Geology)

Chris has recently joined Ausrocks in a broad role across Geotechnical and Mining Engineering. Following his study at the University of Queensland, St Lucia, Chris commenced his career as a Geotechnical Engineer with BHP on the Foundations for Graduates Program. As a Geotechnical Engineer, Chris worked across multiple world class coal mines throughout the Bowen Basin, Central Queensland. Following the 2-year program, Chris held a variety of roles at BHP Blackwater Mine, building a strong and diversified skill set. Chris worked in Mine Planning in Prestrip and Dragline roles and in Operations in a variety of planning and leadership roles.

Chris has recently enjoyed a career break where he renovated his house.

Chris would like to add how excited he is to have joined Ausrocks and is looking forward to meeting and working with all our clients.

Welcome Chris!



# Where Are They Now?

by Alan Robertson & Carl Morandy

Ausrocks regularly employs undergraduate students from local universities to assist them gain practical experience that will allow excellent job prospects after graduating.

## Kayleigh Jones

Kayleigh worked as an undergraduate student at Ausrocks while studying a Bachelor of Environmental Management, Sustainable Development. Since graduating Kayleigh has worked with the Department of Environment & Science as an Environmental Officer, Project Officer and Senior Project Officer. In 2020 Kayleigh has taken on a new role as a project officer at the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport. Kayleigh has done well to progress up the corporate ladder and we are sure the future will be bright.

## Alex Marinelli

Alex worked at Ausrocks and Caged Rock as an undergraduate student while studying a Bachelor of Environmental Science at UQ. After successfully graduating in 2020 he has picked up a position with Jackal Renewables at New Chum working as an Environmental Technician/Labourer and is enjoying the variety. Alex has also secured an Ecology and Conservation Internship with Arid Recovery out at Roxby Downs SA for 3 months starting in March 2021. It sounds like Alex is going to get experience from the mining and recycling industries as well as a taste of conservation work, we wish Alex all the best.

## Natascha Kotze

Congratulations to Natascha Kotze who graduated as a Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours) at QUT in December 2020. Natascha was an employee of Ausrocks and Caged Rock from 2015 to 2020 as an undergraduate engineer and was mentored by Alan Robertson and Carl Morandy. Natascha did most of her required Industry placement work experience with Ausrocks, Caged Rock and the Rix Group. Natascha now works as a Graduate Engineer with the Rix Group at Sumner Park and is involved with cost estimating, safety and field work. We wish Natascha a successful career.

# Renault 10 Rally Car

by Alan Robertson

Early Editions of the Ausrocks Newsletter covered the rebuild of the Renault 10 Rally car. Well, the car is progressing after being in hibernation for a few years. The "big" engine (1390 cc instead of 1108 cc) with 25/65 cam. extractors and Weber carburettor is now tuned, four wheel disc brakes have been overhauled, seats reupholstered and a new steering box is coming from France. Picture Below.



It is intended to get the Renault registered by the end of the first half of 2021. Following this, work will include a new dashboard and other refinements Watch this space!!

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# Interesting Signs & Safety Procedures



Credit: Julius Marinelli



If you come across any weird or wacky signs, feel free to email them through to [info@ausrocks.com.au](mailto:info@ausrocks.com.au)